14 October 2009

Captain John Strong, Chairman
Los Angeles Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee
c/o San Pedro Marine Exchange
3601 S. Gaffey St., Bldg # 803
San Pedro CA 90731

SUBJECT: NEW VOLUNTARY WESTERN TRAFFIC LANES

To Master, M/V _____ .

On September 22nd, 2009, the Los Angeles Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee endorsed voluntary traffic lanes in the western approach to Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors. See Attachment "A" for a description of the geographical coordinates and Attachment "B" for a graphic presentation of the new lanes.

The existing traffic separation scheme (TSS) through the Santa Barbara Channel, as shown on the NOAA and Admiralty charts, remains the only IMO approved TSS available for vessels transiting through the western and northern approaches to Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors. However, some vessels choose to depart from the TSS and transit south of the Santa Barbara Channel Islands. The new western traffic lanes were developed to maintain separation between these vessels.

The new western traffic lanes ARE NOT approved by IMO, nor are they approved by any U.S. federal authority. They have been developed and implemented locally as a voluntary measure to promote vessel safety. That being said, the Los Angeles Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee (LALB HSC) does not make any recommendation regarding which route a vessel master should follow, i.e., whether to transit through the TSS, or to transit through the new voluntary lanes and south of the Channel Islands. Vessel owners and vessel masters must make that routing decision. However, if a vessel master chooses to transit south of the Channel Islands, the committee believes the master should follow the voluntary western traffic lanes to the extent possible.

If you choose to transit south of the Santa Barbara Channel Islands, be guided by the following:

- Because the new western traffic lanes are not an IMO approved traffic separation scheme, the COREGS Rule 10 does not apply.
- The new western traffic lanes should be used with due caution. The vessel master at all times remains responsible for the safe navigation of his/her vessel.
- The U.S. Navy conducts weapons testing in the areas south of the Santa Barbara Channel Islands. You are responsible to keep clear of U.S. Navy tests and exercises.

- You must make every effort to communicate with the U.S. Navy in a timely manner and comply fully with any instructions you receive, even to the extent that such instructions would require you to depart from the new western traffic lanes.
- The U.S. Navy may require you to alter your course or speed. You should expect and plan for possible delays and diversions during those times when the U.S. Navy is conducting weapons tests.
- Maintain a continuous radio listening watch on VHF-FM ch. 16. Be alert for any instructions received from U.S. Navy air or surface craft.
- Keep your vessel's A.I.S. equipment switched on at all times.
- You must be vigilant. The area south of the Channel Islands is used by fishing and recreational vessels whose operators may not be aware of the new voluntary traffic lanes or that ship traffic has recently increased in this area.
- See U.S. Coast Pilot 7, 41st Edition 2009, page 293, paragraph 392, for more information.
- See, also, U.S. Coast Guard Eleventh District Local Notice to Mariners for information regarding hazardous operations.

When transiting south of the Santa Barbara Channel Islands, communicate with U.S. Navy PLEAD CONTROL in a timely manner so that you can make early decisions regarding safe routing.

- Contact PLEAD CONTROL on VHF-FM ch. 11 or ch. 16 or Tel. (805) 989 8841 or (805) 989-8843.
- PLEAD CONTROL is not continuously staffed 24 hours. A recorded message is available at Tel. (805) 989 1470.
- If you cannot contact PLEAD CONTROL, call "San Pedro Traffic" on VHF-FM ch. 14 or Tel. (310) 832 6411.
- U.S. Navy requests all vessels transiting through their Pacific Missile Test Range to submit a notification to PLEAD CONTROL indicating the vessel name, destination, and estimated time of entry into and departure from the test range. Notifications can be faxed to (805) 989-0102.
- When inbound, contact PLEAD CONTROL or "San Pedro Traffic" to determine when and where an exercise is scheduled. Communicate in sufficient time to divert or adjust your speed to avoid naval operations.
- When outbound, advise "San Pedro Traffic" whether you intend to transit "Northbound" (through the Santa Barbara Channel) or "Westbound" (south of the Channel Islands) when you make your regular report fifteen (15) minutes prior to departing the federal breakwater. "San Pedro Traffic" will provide you with their most recent information regarding hazardous naval operations.

Direct your questions regarding the new voluntary western traffic lanes and communication procedures to "San Pedro Traffic."

Captain John Strong, Chairman
Los Angeles Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee

Attachment "A" – Voluntary Western Traffic Lanes
Los Angeles Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee

October 7, 2009

Voluntary western traffic lanes are proposed as follows:

In the approaches to Los Angeles/Long Beach: Western Approach.

A western precautionary area consists of the water area enclosed by the following geographical positions:

Latitude	Longitude
33°35.50'N.	118°23.50'W.
33°35.50'N.	118°36.35'W.
33°41.74'N.	118°36.35'W.
33°35.50'N.	118°23.50'W.

A separation zone is bounded by a line connecting the following geographical positions:

Latitude	Longitude
33°36.50'N.	118°36.35'W.
33°38.60'N.	119°05.50'W.
33°40.60'N.	119°05.50'W.
33°38.50'N.	118°36.35'W.

A traffic lane for westbound coastwise traffic is established between the separation zone and a line connecting the following geographical positions:

Latitude	Longitude
33°39.50'N.	118°36.35'W.
33°41.60'N.	119°05.50'W.

A traffic lane for eastbound coastwise traffic is established between the separation zone and a line connecting the following geographical positions:

Latitude	Longitude
33°35.50'N.	118°36.35'W.
33°37.60'N.	119°05.50'W.